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11 February

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MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Notes on NSC Meeting, 11 February

Indochina Military Situation

Little change. Viet Minh battalion from Samneua reached bend of river - at Luang Prabang - probing French defenses. Will wait for the 10 forces from Dien Bien Phu coming down - now about 30 miles away. No change at Dien Bien Phu to speak of. Loss of some 44 posts in the South. Sabotage in the Delta - C-47's and gasoline.

Navarre to Heath

Follows cards closely.

Viet Nam Nationalist Groups

Since last meetings discussion -- had looked into possibility of using religious groups to inspire nationalist fervor. Picture looks pretty bad. Strongest religious group is Catholics -- includes intelligentsia, trained men -- strong bishops with influence. Strange Cao Dai sect -- mixture Catholicism and Buddhism. Saints -- George Washington, Victor Hugo, Jesus Christ. Still a lot of fence-sitters. Problem is how to get them to take part. Many feel Bao Dai is the leader, but Bullitt has reported he is very sick with Malaria -- all through his system -- means long interruptions in his work.

Ho Chi Minh

DCI on hunt for Ho Chi Minh - strange that dynamic leader hadn't made personal appearance in over a year. [REDACTED] Could be sent by dead man just as well. Mystery that hasn't been pierced. Don't know why or where he's being kept under cover.

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Rhee's Anti-Communist Front

Originated in the Rhee-Chiang meeting in November. Communique calling for free Asian governments to organize common front. Has sent two missions to SEA - second left 10 February. Wants Magsaysay to lead the front - Chinats feel Rhee pushing too far and too fast. No

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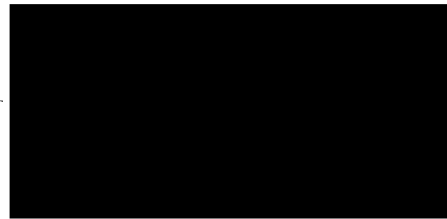
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sign Magsaysay going to accept. Other SEA reactions cool. Burma and Indonesia unlikely to respond; Thais a little jealous of Magsaysay as leader SEA; Japs and Rhee unlikely to get together on this or anything else -- so not much likely to come of this Rhee attempt.

East German Unrest

Quite a campaign to stress popular East German dissatisfaction with conference. Some of it planted. We have been working very closely with the delegation in Berlin on this so as to get an expression of the East German desire for free elections, etc. Keep the pot boiling, but without blowing the lid off.



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